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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/594,909	09/29/2006	Motoyasu Nagano	MAT-8911US	8315
53473	7590	03/17/2011		
RATNERPRESTIA P.O. BOX 980 VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482			EXAMINER	
			DANG, KET D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3742	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/594,909

Applicant(s)

NAGANO ET AL.

Examiner

KET D. DANG

Art Unit

3742

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 January 2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 September 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTC-940)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is responsive to the amendment filed on January 04, 2011. As directed by the amendment: claims 1 and 5 have been amended, no claims have been cancelled and no claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-8 are presently pending in this application.

Response to Amendment/Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed January 4, 2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

In that regard, as Applicant admitted on page 8 of 10 of the Arguments/Remarks, "Kawamoto suggests an electrode arc welder". Specifically, the system shown in Figs. 1 and 4 of Kawamoto include a short circuit waveform control circuit, an arc waveform control circuit and a constant current control circuit (i.e., Kawamoto does not suggest an arc resistance calculator)." Examiner agrees with the Applicant that Kawamoto does not suggest an arc resistance calculator. However, Blankenship teaches an arc resistance calculator 160 (fig. 2) (abstract; col. 2, lines 20-48).

Applicant also argues on page 9 of 10 of the Arguments/Remarks that Kawamoto's voltage is not controlled in the short circuit period. Examiner disagrees with this argument. As pointed out in Office action, Kawamoto discloses that voltage is controlled by inputting a welding voltage detection signal in the short circuit and transmitted its output to the power element (5) (para.0002-0003).

Furthermore, Churchward teaches a constant current when the arc resistance increases or decreases the resistance thresholds (page 1, lines 79 - page 2, lines 35).

Therefore, the combination of Kawamoto in view of Blankenship and Churchward fully meets all of the claimed limitations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamoto (JP 410109163 A) in view of Blankenship (US 6,248,976 B1) and Churchward (US 1,687,492).

Regarding claims 1 and 5, Kawamoto discloses a consumable electrode type arc welding machine which makes use of an arc generated between a base metal of welding and a wire supplied thereto (para. 0002-0003), the machine comprising: a welding voltage detection circuit for detecting a welding voltage and outputting a

welding voltage detection signal (Paragraph 3, lines 4-5); a welding current detection circuit for detecting a welding current and outputting a welding current detection signal (Paragraph 3, lines 7-9); a short-circuit arc judgment circuit for outputting a short-circuit arc judgment signal, after accepting the welding voltage detection signal and judging whether the machine is in a short-circuit state or in an arc state (Paragraph 3, lines 5-7); a short-circuit waveform control circuit for outputting a short-circuit waveform control signal after accepting the welding current detection signal (Paragraph 3, lines 9-10); an arc waveform control circuit for outputting an arc waveform control signal for an arc period after accepting the welding voltage detection signal (Paragraph 3, lines 10-12); and a first switching circuit 11 (Fig.1) which accepts the short-circuit waveform control signal and the arc waveform control signal and selects the arc waveform control signal in the arc period or the short-circuit waveform control signal in the short-circuit period based on the short-circuit arc judgment signal, and outputs a selected signal (Paragraph 6, lines 15-17); wherein a welding power 5 (Fig. 1) is controlled by the output from the first switching circuit 11 (Fig. 1), a constant-current control period setting unit outputting a constant-current control period signal which indicates a constant-current control period (Paragraph 6, lines 7-8), a constant-current circuit for outputting a constant-current signal for implementing a certain specific constant-current value after accepting the welding current detection signal and based on the inputted welding current detection signal (Paragraph 6, lines 8-13); and a second switching circuit for selecting 3 (Fig.1) , in accordance with the constant-current control period signal, one of the constant-current signal in the constant-current control period (Paragraph 6, lines 19-20) and the

output signal from the first switching circuit 11 (Fig. 1) in a period other than the constant-current control period, and outputting a selected signal (Paragraph 6, lines 17-19); and the welding power 5 (Fig. 1) is controlled based on the output from the second switching circuit 3 (Fig.1).

With respect to claims 2-4, Kawamoto discloses the claimed invention, including the consumable electrode type arc welding machine, wherein the short-circuit waveform control circuit accepts the welding current detection signal and outputs a short-circuit waveform control signal (Paragraph 3, lines 9-10), the switching circuit 25 (Fig. 4) selects the arc waveform control signal when the short-circuit arc judgment signal indicates the arc period (Paragraph 3, lines 12-14), when the short-circuit arc judgment signal indicates the short-circuit period (Paragraph 2, line 3), the switching circuit selects the short-circuit waveform control signal, and outputs a selected signal (Paragraph 3, lines 12-14), the welding power 5 (Fig. 1) is controlled based on the output from the switching circuit; wherein the arc waveform control circuit accepts the welding voltage detection signal and outputs an arc waveform control signal (Paragraph 3, lines 10-12).

With respect to claims 6-8, Kawamoto discloses the consumable electrode type arc welding machine, wherein the short-circuit waveform control circuit accepts the welding current detection signal and outputs a short-circuit waveform control signal (Paragraph 3, lines 9-10); the first switching circuit 11 (Fig. 1) selects the arc waveform control signal when the short-circuit arc judgment signal indicates the arc period, when the short-circuit arc judgment signal indicates the short-circuit period (Paragraph 3, lines

12-14); the switching circuit selects the short-circuit waveform control signal, and outputs a selected signal (Paragraph 3, lines 12-14), the welding power 5 (Fig. 1) is controlled based on the output from the switching circuit; wherein the arc waveform control circuit accepts the welding voltage detection signal and outputs an arc waveform control signal (Paragraph 3, lines 10-12).

Kawamoto discloses all of the limitations of the claimed invention as set forth above, except for an arc resistance calculator for calculating and outputting an arc resistance signal and the arc resistance signal is delivered to at least one of the short-circuit waveform control circuit and the arc waveform control circuit for controlling the welding power; when the arc resistance signal continues exhibiting a value that is greater than a certain specific value; and the welding current to be held at a constant level when the arc resistance exceeds the resistance threshold, the constant level current being greater than a normal welding current generated based on the welding voltage.

However, an arc resistance calculator for calculating and outputting an arc resistance signal and the arc resistance signal is delivered to at least one of the short-circuit waveform control circuit and the arc waveform control circuit for controlling the welding power is known in the art. Blankenship, for example, teaches an arc resistance calculator for calculating and outputting an arc resistance signal, and the arc resistance signal is delivered to at least one of the short-circuit waveform control circuit and the arc waveform control circuit for controlling the welding power (col. 2, lines 6-38).

Blankenship further teaches such a configuration provides a means the arc length can be maintained during the welding process (col. 2, line 20-23).

Similarly, the welding current to be held at a constant level when the arc resistance exceeds the resistance threshold, the constant level current being greater than a normal welding current generated based on the welding voltage is known in the art. Churchward, for example, teaches the welding current to be held at a constant level when the arc resistance exceeds the resistance threshold, the constant level current being greater than a normal welding current generated based on the welding voltage (page 1, lines 67 - page 2, lines 35). Churchward also teaches when the arc resistance signal continues exhibiting a value that is greater than a certain specific value (page 1, lines 79-81). Churchward further teaches such a configuration provides a means to overcome such increase in resistance and necessary to supply a greater voltage to the work to maintain a constant flow of current across the arc (page 1, lines 81-85).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kawamoto with calculating an arc resistance of Blankenship in order the arc length can be maintained during the welding process. Similarly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kawamoto in view of Blankenship with the welding current to be held at a constant level when the arc resistance exceeds the resistance threshold, the constant level current being greater than a normal welding current generated based on the welding voltage of Churchward in order to overcome such increase in resistance and necessary to supply a greater voltage to the work to maintain a constant flow of current across the arc.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KET D. DANG whose telephone number is (571) 270-7827. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30 - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoang Tu can be reached on (571) 272-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KET D DANG/
Examiner, Art Unit 3742
March 12, 2011

/Stephen J Ralis/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3742